



Photo by Bernie Ernst

(Left) General Lance W. Lord, Commander, Air Force Space Command, and his wife, Beccy Lord, visited Warren Tuesday, along with Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete, AFSPC Command Chief Master Sergeant. This was the general's final visit to Warren before retiring in March. (Below) General Lance W. Lord, Commander, Air Force Space Command, answers a question during his final commander's call here Tuesday.

# General Lord bids farewell to AFSPC during visit to Warren

**Airman 1st Class Connor Elayan**  
*90th Space Wing Public Affairs*

General Lance W. Lord, Commander, Air Force Space Command, visited here Tuesday as part of a series of farewell visits to AFSPC bases after 37 years of service in the Air Force.

“As I get ready to pull my last couple weeks in the business, I have been looking across what we have done in the last four years or so. On an annual basis, especially with what we see in the 20th Air Force and Mighty Ninety, I think the state of command is in great shape,” said General Lord. “I want to congratulate the wing for their great work up here and also the Twentieth [Air Force]. I believe we are all part of a wonderful team with a wonderful mission.”

During his visit, the general held a commander’s call where he discussed various topics to include the Quadrennial Defense Review, the new Air Force uniforms, force shaping and the importance of taking care of our people.

With the recent death of a Warren Airman, General Lord said being a wingman to our fellow servicemembers is of the

utmost importance.

“What we have to do is take care of each other as we look toward the future,” said General Lord. “If we take care of each other, we will continue to do great things and get the mission done.”

Knowing what the future holds is part of that mission.

The general played a major role in the Intercontinental Ballistic Missile modernization program designed to extend the life of the Minuteman III weapon system until the year 2020.

“What we’re trying to do is look at ways to make the Minuteman system even more vibrant and more capable in the future,” said General Lord. “I see a bright future for the ICBM business. I see the continued interest and commitment to the deterrence mission.”

Moving to another topic close to his heart, the general talked about the command’s work in the field of space professional development. Among the many programs and initiatives devoted along this line, the general is convinced that developing the nation’s younger intellectual resource is vital to success.

To support President George W. Bush’s American Competitiveness Initiative that encourages education in mathematics and sciences,

General Lord launched the AFSPC initiative, High Frontier Adventures. He will teach the first class today to sixth graders at Discovery Canyon School in Colorado Springs, Colo.

“I am convinced that the more we know in those kinds of hard sciences, the better off we will be as a nation. Right now we are being out-produced in terms of scientists and engineers 14 to 1 by our international competitors. Clearly we cannot continue to maintain our edge without having the best brains in the country being competitive,” said General Lord. “We’ll ask (the people) in the command to get involved. It will be a natural extension of who we are in each one of these communities.”

After he retires from the Air Force, General Lord plans to continue being active in the community and taking advantage of opportunities that arise.

“Beccy and I will have a chance to take a deep breath. I’m not nervous about the future, I’m excited about the opportunities,” said General Lord. “I think I still have a lot to offer, and I intend to serve in different ways in the community and continue to work and have fun with the great people who have dedicated themselves to this wonderful mission.”



Photo by Justin Nestorick

## AFSPC Command Chief visits Warren

**Senior Airman Lauren Hasinger**  
*90th Space Wing Public Affairs*

The Command Chief Master Sergeant of Air Force Space Command visited here Tuesday with General Lance W. Lord, Commander, AFSPC, during the general’s final commander’s call here.

While here, Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete talked about the professionalism of the Mighty Ninety, deployments and the retirements of two Air Force leaders.

“[The Airmen of Warren are] great professionals who are dedicated to the mission and focused on learning what they need to learn to get the job done,” said the chief. “My hat’s off to the men and women here at F. E. Warren for doing such a great job over the last year. I’m sure they’ll continue to do a great job.”

One area where Warren shows its professionalism is by continuing to deploy Airmen around the world with air expeditionary forces, he said. The chief said that those who are tasked to deploy must be ready by getting all the necessary training and making sure they take care of the family before they deploy.

He also had advice for those staying behind.

“You don’t have to be deployed to be employed. You have to set priorities if you’re left behind. Think, ‘what’s the mission of the day?’ and pick your priorities wisely,” he said.

Those priorities may need to be further defined with the Air Force’s force shaping plans. Though the Air Force has plans to cut about 40,000 Airmen from its ranks, Chief Kriete thinks it’s too early to speculate the impact it will have on the command.

“We don’t know where we’re cutting those (people) from. We have to

really figure out what percentage of that 40,000 is coming out of Space Command and how to spread it across the command,” he said.

On the reason for the visit here, Chief Kriete spoke about General Lord who will receive the Order of the Sword Saturday, the highest honor the enlisted force can bestow upon an officer. Having worked closely with the general for a number of years, Chief Kriete said he knows the reason.

“The number one reason is his leadership – not just his leadership as the commander of Space Command, but during his 37 years of service – and his concern for the Airmen, whether you’re an airman basic or a colonel,” Chief Kriete said.

The general has always made quality-of-life initiatives a priority, the chief said. It has not only affected the enlisted force, but a spectrum of civilians, officers and enlisted. His nomination comes down to being a great leader for Airmen, said the chief.

Along with General Lord, Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Gerald Murray is also retiring this year.

“He has pushed enlisted initiatives farther than I’ve ever seen a chief do,” said Chief Kriete. “It’s going to be a sad day when he retires. He’s fulfilled his commitment to the Air Force and is retiring a great chief, a great man and a great friend.”

Though his trip was short, the chief didn’t leave Warren without praising its members.

“It’s always great to get out of headquarters and see our Airmen. Thanks for all the dedication and hard work,” he said. “Thanks to all the men and women at F. E. Warren for making our job at headquarters easier.”

**Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Kriete, Command Chief Master Sgt, Air Force Space Command, talks with Senior Airman Lauren Hasinger, 90th Space Wing Public Affairs, during an interview Tuesday. Chief Kriete visited Warren with General Lance W. Lord, Commander AFSPC, during the general's final visit here before retiring in March.**



Photo by Capt. Nicole Walters